

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 /148 W

----- 056043

R 170705Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 775

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

COMUSTDC

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 5519

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJ: PRC:CHEMICAL FERTILIZER OUTPUT UP 6.1 PERCENT IN FIRST QUARTER

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH CHINA'S CHEMICAL FERTILIZER OUTPUT ROSE IN THE
FIRST QUARTER, THE SHARE OF PHOSPHATES DECLINED. SINCE
PHOSPHATES HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR MAJOR YIELD INCREASES, THIS

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DEVELOPMENT IMPLIES A LOWER RISE IN OUTPUT, UNLESS

PHOSPHATE IMPORTS INCREASE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PRC'S CHEMICAL FERTILIZER OUTPUT IN THE FIRST QUARTER WAS 6.1 PERCENT ABOVE THAT FOR 1973, AND NITROGENOUS FERTILIZER OUTPUT INCREASED BY 12.2 PERCENT (NCNA MAY 5). SMALL SYNTHETIC AMMONIA PLANTS INCREASED THEIR OUTPUT BY 14.8 PERCENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR 55 PERCENT OF THE PRC'S PRODUCTION.

2. AT THE END OF 1972, NITROGENOUS FERTILIZERS ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF NATIONAL OUTPUT WITH PHOSPHATES AND OTHERS MAKING UP THE REST (NCNA DECEMBER 23, 1972). ASSUMING THE SAME RELATIVE COMPOSITION HELD THROUGH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1973 AS WELL, THE 1974 CLAIMS SUGGEST THAT PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER PRODUCTION AS A SHARE OF TOTAL PRODUCTION DECLINED A FEW PERCENT AND ITS TOTAL VOLUME MAY IN FACT HAVE DECREASED SLIGHTLY. THE RATIO OF PHOSPHOROUS USED NEEDS TO BE INCREASED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN BETTER YIELDS FROM HIGH-YIELD VARIETY SEEDS. THE STAGNATION IN PRC PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER OUTPUT BODES ILL FOR SIGNIFICANT YIELD INCREASES, UNLESS IT IS MORE THAN OFFSET BY IMPORTS. (WE HAVE LITTLE DATA ON CHEMICAL FERTILIZER IMPORTS, BUT WE HAVE NO REASON TO EXPECT SIZEABLE INCREASES AT THIS TIME.)
CROSS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 MAY 1974
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Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
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30 JUN 2005

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